

Pendergast, Jim

From: Frithsen, Jeff
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 11:10 PM
To: Armitage, Thomas
Cc: Zarba, Christopher; Goodman, Iris; Alexander, Laurie; Thomas Brennan
Subject: RE: Public comment process for SAB review of draft ORD connectivity document

Tom:

Thanks for the update. The increased time needed prior to the SAB meeting was expected and is totally understandable.

One brief update on our end. Lek Kadeli asked us to look into conducting an interagency briefing prior to the release of the document by the SAB. Discussions are under way with CEQ to arrange that interagency briefing and I am hopeful that we will be able to complete that briefing sometime in the next two weeks or so. We are requesting that the interagency briefing occur as a webinar/teleconference.

Following the interagency briefing, ORD is ready to hand over the complete external review draft of the Connectivity Report to the SAB. We will provide the report as a fully 508 compliant PDF file. If desired by the SAB, we can also provide separate 508 compliant PDF files for each chapter to make downloading easier.

ORD is not planning on a separate public comment period for the draft document either before or after the SAB review. ORD and OW would like the SAB public comment period to be no less than 60 days. I assume that the SAB will probably want to leave about one month between the end of that public comment period and the SAB meeting to summarize comments submitted to the docket. If my assumption is correct, that would mean that the earliest the SAB might have the SAB meeting is about three months after the release of the Connectivity Report.

During a previous discussion with Chris, he indicated that the SAB would probably want to publish the draft charge questions at the same time that the draft document was released for public comment. We should work on finalizing the charge questions during the next two weeks.

We should also discuss the approximate schedule for the review. Do you think it possible to release the report around June 14? That might place the peer review meeting in mid-September, which I think is consistent with previous discussions.

Thanks again Tom. We appreciate your attention to this important review. The list of candidates nominated for the review panel is outstanding!

Jeff

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From: Armitage, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 5:07 PM
To: Frithsen, Jeff
Cc: Zarba, Christopher; Goodman, Iris; Alexander, Laurie; Thomas Brennan
Subject: Public comment process for SAB review of draft ORD connectivity document

Hi Jeff,

We understand that ORD does not plan to release the draft report on connectivity of streams and wetlands to downstream waters for public comment before the document is reviewed by the Science Advisory Board. Therefore, we will have to build additional time into the schedule for the SAB review.

As usual, the SAB Office will provide an opportunity for the public to submit comments for the SAB Panel's consideration. However, because there will not be a separate request for public comments to the Agency, we anticipate the possibility of receiving a large number of comments that address scientific and technical as well as policy issues. We therefore plan to use the EPA docket for the first time to assist us in receiving and compiling comments, and we will allow a longer period of time than usual for public comment before the SAB meeting.

We usually make draft documents available on our website for public review approximately one month before a panel meeting. For the connectivity document, we expect that at least four weeks of additional time, beyond the usual one month, will be needed to: provide an adequate opportunity for the public to review the document, allow time for the EPA docket staff to compile and post public comments, and allow time for the SAB Panel to consider the public comments relevant to their task.

As previously indicated, the date of the SAB Panel meeting will depend upon the availability of Panel members, but we also wanted to let you know of the need for a longer opportunity for public comment before the meeting. Please feel free to call if you have questions.

Tom Armitage

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